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Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/973,447	ROWE, EDWARD R.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jung Kim	2132	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--
 All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

- 1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 9/19/07.
- 2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 54-65.
- 3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 - 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 - * Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

- 4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 - 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____. |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 54-65 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Applicant's claimed invention discloses a computer-implemented method for managing access to electronic documents, comprising: associating a first key with an encrypted document decryption key, the encrypted document decryption key being associated with an encrypted document, the encrypted document decryption key when decrypted yielding a document decryption key usable to decrypt the encrypted document, the first key being usable to decrypt the encrypted document decryption key; encrypting the first key to produce an encrypted first key; providing the encrypted first key in a first access controlled manner to users for use in opening the encrypted document; associating with the encrypted first key a second key that can be used to decrypt the encrypted first key; and providing the second key in a second access controlled manner to users for use in opening all documents that can be opened through use of the first key, the second access controlled manner being distinct from the first access controlled manner, wherein providing the second key in an access controlled manner comprises sending information used to synthesize the second key in rights management information, and wherein the rights management information provides a license and defines a set of permission rights associated with the license. The prior art of record discloses a similar device; however, the prior art of record does not disclose wherein the

set of permission rights specifies a right allowing another key to be associated with the rights management information so that a holder of such a key as access to the first key. Moreover, applicant's claimed invention discloses a computer-implemented method for accessing an electronic document, comprising: obtaining an encrypted electronic document; obtaining a collection of three or more keys, the keys including keys that are encrypted, the keys and the document having at least two associations defined between certain pairs of them, where at least one association is a pair consisting of a first key and an encrypted second key indicates that the first key can be used to decrypt and thereby make usable the second key, where at least one association is a pair consisting of the encrypted second key and an encrypted third key, the association indicating that the decrypted second key can be used to decrypt and thereby make usable the third key, where each association of a pair consisting of an encrypted document decryption key and the encrypted document indicates that the encrypted document decryption key, when decrypted, can be used to decrypt the encrypted document, and where a user has access to and can use certain ones of the keys in the collection; using the associations to identify at least one key in the collection that is usable, directly or indirectly, to open the encrypted document, and to which the user has access. However, the prior art of record does not disclose wherein the associations are represented as a directed graph, with each node representing a key or the document, with one or more nodes representing keys accessible to the user, and with one or more edges pointing to the document, and wherein using the associations to identify at least one key comprises

finding a path in the directed graph to the node representing the document from one of the nodes representing keys accessible to the user. Hence, claims 54-65 are allowed.

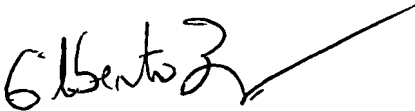
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Communications Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jung W. Kim whose telephone number is 571-272-3804. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 9:00-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gilberto Barron can be reached on 571-272-3799. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


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